

*** * REMARKS * ***

In the Restriction Requirement mailed March 24, 2006, the Examiner identified three patentably distinct species: I: Figure 2; II: Figure 7; and III: Figure 10. Applicant has canceled the claims corresponding to species III (Figure 10), namely Claims 6 and 7. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute claims directed to species III in divisional filings and/or continuation applications. Claim 10 was amended to be directed to species I. New Claim 12 is directed to species II. All other new claims are directed to species I.

With respect to species I (Figure 2) and II (Figure 7), Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's position that none of the claims would be considered generic. Both of the embodiments shown in Figures 2 and 7 include a vessel member, a drain adaptor, a plunger piston, and a piston actuator, as recited in Claim 1. The difference between the two embodiments is the shape of the drain adaptor. In Figure 2, the drain adaptor has a conical shape, while the drain adaptor in Figure 7 has a bell shape. However, Claim 1 is not limited to a particular shape of the drain adaptor. In particular, Claim 1 recites "said drain adaptor being shaped to facilitate insertion thereof into a plumbing drain." Accordingly, Applicant believes that Claim 1 is generic of species I and II shown in Figures 2 and 7; accordingly, prosecution should proceed on Claims 1-5 and 8-22, which are drawn to either Figures 2 or 7.

In the event that the Restriction Requirement is not withdrawn with respect to species I (Figure 2) and species II (Figure 7), Applicant elects species I (Figure 2) which corresponds to Claims 1-5, 8-11, and 13-22. If the restriction requirement is not withdrawn,

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Applicant also elects to withdraw Claim 12, which is the only claim specifically drawn to species II (Figure 7).

If, upon consideration of the above, the Examiner should feel that there remain outstanding issues in the present application that could be resolved, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' patent counsel at the telephone number given below to discuss such issues. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 is hereby made. To the extent additional fees are required, please charge the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 02-1010 (37995-82816) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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